

IAH CGCC Photo Contest

Groundwater and Climate Change: A Visual Perspective

Organised by the IAH Commission on Groundwater and Climate Change

Objective

Groundwater plays a fundamental yet often invisible role in climate resilience and adaptation, water security, and ecosystem sustainability. Through this photo contest, the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) aims to bring groundwater to the surface, visually and conceptually, by showcasing its interactions with climate change and its importance for society and the environment.

The objectives of the contest are to:

- Raise awareness of the critical role groundwater plays in climate change adaptation and resilience, highlighting its importance for water security, ecosystems, and communities.
- Make the invisible visible by visually communicating groundwater processes, impacts, and interactions with climate change that are often hidden beneath the surface.
- Promote scientific understanding of groundwater–climate interactions, including droughts, floods, sea-level rise, and extreme events, through accessible and engaging visual storytelling.
- Actively engage young hydrogeologists, students and early career professionals in a creative and educational initiative.

Target Participants

The contest is open to:

- Early career professionals, under the age of 35
- Students in hydrogeology, geology, environmental sciences, and related disciplines
- All other photography enthusiasts with an interest in environmental, geoscience, water and related topics

Contest Themes

Participants are invited to submit photographs that interpret one or more of the following themes:

1. **Groundwater and Drought**
Visual stories of water scarcity, drought impacts, and the resilience provided by groundwater resources.
2. **Groundwater–Climate Interactions**
Images illustrating the links between groundwater and climate (change) driven processes such as floods, extreme rainfall, sea-level rise, and coastal aquifer salinization.
3. **Innovative Solutions and Sustainable Management**
Photographs highlighting sustainable groundwater management practices, including artificial recharge, aquifer protection, monitoring, and nature-based solutions.
4. **The Hidden Value of Water in a Climate Change Context**
Creative and symbolic representations that reveal the often unseen importance of groundwater for people, ecosystems, and future generations in a climate change setting.

Submission Rules and How to Participate

Participation in the “Groundwater and Climate Change” IAH Photo Contest is **free of charge**, and open to both members and non-members of IAH.

Each participant may submit up to **three (3) original photographs**, which must be the author’s own work. Photographs may be submitted in color or black and white. Submissions must be in digital format only (JPEG), with a minimum resolution of 300 dpi.

Each image must be accompanied by a **title and a short caption** (maximum 150 characters, spaces excluded) explaining the message of the photograph, its relevance to groundwater and climate change, and indicating the geographical location where the photo was taken (City/town and country). This is done by filling in the **Photographic Material Description Form**.

To enter the contest, participants are also required to complete the **Participation Form**, signed in a clear and legible manner. Both forms can be found and filled in together in the attached document.

The photographs and two completed forms must be compressed (zipped) into one file named with your given and family name and the date: **Surname_Givenname_Date.zip** (or .rar), and uploaded to <https://surfdrive.surf.nl/s/MsbRm6ett5DF3fM>. **Please also send an email, without annexes, to iah.cgcc@gmail.com** to confirm your submission. The submission deadline is 15 June 2026.

Submissions containing offensive or discriminatory content will not be accepted.

Awards and Prizes

Photographs will be evaluated by a team of hydrogeologists and hobby photographers based on their relevance to the contest theme, originality, and overall quality. The following awards will be presented:

- **Best Groundwater and Climate Change Photo**
Awarded to the image that most effectively represents the impacts of climate change on groundwater.
- **Early Career Special Mention**
This special mention is reserved for photographs submitted by early career professionals (under the age of 35) or students recognizes the image that best combines innovation, scientific relevance, and educational impact in communicating groundwater and climate change issues.

Timeline

- **Photo Submission Period:** Open from 1st March 2026 to 15 June 2026.
- **Awarding Ceremony:** Presentation of awards during the IAH 2026 Budapest Congress - 14–18 September 2026 (<https://iah2026budapest.com/>), accompanied by a photo exhibition featuring winning and selected submissions.

Permissions and Communications

By submitting their photographs, participants **explicitly grant permission** for their images to be reproduced, published, and communicated to the public for outreach, communication, and educational purposes by IAH, including through print media, social media, and web channels.